

## LUMBER BUSINESS

Agitated Over the Reduction of the Tariff

## AS HAS BEEN REQUESTED

By Canadian Members of Joint Commission.

## THAT IS NOW IN SESSION.

Steps Are Being Taken to Counteract the Movement—The Reduction will Seriously Affect West Virginia's Interests—Where the Danger Lies in the Consideration of the Matter by the Commission—Would Take the Form of a Treaty.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—Those who are engaged in the lumber business in this country are agitated over the revival of the question of reducing the tariff to 15 per cent as requested by the Canadian members of the high joint commission now in session in this city. Steps are being taken to counteract the movement, and telegrams are being sent to prominent lumbermen warning them of the threatened reduction.

Representative Dayton to-day notified a number of his constituents interested in the question, and a combined effort will be made to maintain the present rate. It was believed the matter was permanently settled at the Quebec session of the commission, when Representative Lawrence was the outside representative of the American interest. The revival of the discussion, however, refutes this.

A prominent West Virginia operator said to-night that while he had every confidence in the American commissioners, he would nevertheless remain here to look after the lumber interests, because while the duty might not be reduced to 15 per cent, it is possible for a reduction of 20 per cent to be effected, and this could not be borne. The effect of a decision by the commission, he said, is lasting, because it would take the form of a treaty, and could not be revised by Congress. He regards the present tariff as fair, and referred with some feeling to the time when every last firm operating on the West Virginia Central railway was driven out of business by the Wilson bill. This paralysis was referred to merely as an example. Senator Faulkner is a member of the commission.

## CANADIAN JOINT COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—The meeting of the Canadian joint high commission at the Arlington to-day was followed by quite a long session of Canadian commissioners at their own quarters. It is now stated that owing to the unsettled condition of the commission's work it is impossible to say positively whether or not the commission will adjourn over for the holidays. This may indicate either a favorable or unfavorable state of affairs between the two sets of commissioners, but it is hardly thought probable by those who have watched the passage of negotiations that an amicable settlement can be reported before Christmas.

## CABINET DISCUSSIONS

Over the Administration of Affairs of our New Possessions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—The discussion of the details of the administration of government affairs in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines under the treaty of peace which is about to be signed in Paris, occupied a large part of time at to-day's cabinet meeting. Cablegrams were read from Admiral Dewey and General Otis at Manila, giving their views as to the number of troops that it would be necessary to keep in the Philippines during the administration of the military government. An official denial was given that the scheme of postal administration of the Philippine Islands to any other nation has ever been considered by this government, and it is stated that the published statements to the effect that their sale to Japan had been under discussion was all untrue.

The cabinet also talked over an elaborate tariff measure which is now in preparation here to go into force as now planned, contemporaneously with the entire relinquishment of the island by the Spanish on January 1. This tariff measure, it is said, will show an average reduction all along the line of about 50 per cent from the Spanish tariff rates. The understanding now is that there will be no export duties and that in other ways the burden of taxation will be reduced.

Postmaster General Emory Smith remained in consultation with the President almost the entire afternoon, talking over the scheme of postal administration of Cuba. There are two projects considered, one to establish a United States system similar to that now operative in Porto Rico under direct administration, and the other to give the Cubans an independent postal system to be established and equipped by the United States government, but to be operated and administered and all expenses paid by the Cubans, this government merely furnishing equipment at cost prices and assuming only a supervisory connection with it. A decision on this point will be reached shortly. Postmaster Smith is expected to leave for the Philippines to secure information as to conditions and needs and they will report to him without delay. This commission may consist of as many as four experts, thoroughly familiar with the respective operation of the internal administration of the postoffices, of local transportation, of inspection and registry.

## COMMISSIONER SCOTT

Recommends Amendments to the War Revenue Act.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—Chairman Dingley, of the ways and means committee, has received a letter from the commissioner of internal revenue, N. H. Scott, recommending a number of amendments to the act of June 15, 1898, known as the war revenue act. The recommendations cover changes of an administrative character under schedules A and B, also for the monthly

## DEWEY AND OTIS

Report a Notable Improvement in the Philippines—Clerical Prisoners will be Released.

## Report a Notable Improvement in the Philippines—Clerical Prisoners will be Released.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The navy department has received a cablegram from Admiral Dewey, summarizing the existing conditions at Manila and such points in the Philippines as have been visited by his officers. Advice also has been received from General Otis, the commander of the United States military forces in the islands, and they both go to show a notable improvement in conditions and the growth of a better spirit among the natives. The natives which promised to give trouble. This fact is particularly gratifying as the United States government is already giving consideration to the best means at hand to redeem the pledge it will be placed under by the treaty of Paris to secure the release of the Spanish prisoners held by the Philippine natives. There are about 500 clerical prisoners, and the government is confident that captors will deliver them up on proper representation by General Otis and Admiral Dewey, made possible through the consul, Wildman. It may be necessary to call the navy into this service for the reason that some of the prisoners are in custody on other islands than Luzon, which can be reached best and most effectively by Admiral Dewey's ships.

Besides the clerical prisoners, the Americans themselves hold nearly 15,000 Spanish soldiers, as prisoners of war captured at the fall of Manila. They are actually on parole about the city and the question is how are they to be returned to Spain. This must be settled by the peace commissioners in Paris.

## West Virginia Personalities.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—West Virginians who have been in the city on missions various are: J. D. Culbertson, Wheeling; John T. McGraw, Grant; W. A. Ohley, Charleston; R. K. Clifton, Wheeling; Alex. Matthews, Lewisburg; Col. Thompson, of Tucker county.

Mrs. Senator Faulkner has issued cards for a tea December 15, when Miss S. E. Faulkner will be formally ushered into society.

On Thursday, Commissioner of Internal Revenue N. B. Scott took luncheon with the President, spending an enjoyable two hours with Mr. McKinley.

Hasn't Thought of It Yet. WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—Major General Wheeler authorized the following statement to-day as to reports that he had decided to resign from the house of representatives:

"I was surprised to see what purports to be an interview with my resigning from Congress. I have never gone further than to say that I would consider the question when I had time, and would take such action as my friends would approve. Thus far, however, I have reached no final conclusion."

## General Garcia's Condition.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—The condition of General Garcia is less favorable to-night, though at midnight he was resting easy.

## LEFT OFF THE LIST.

Wheeling and Lake Erie and C. & W. Not in the Federal Steel Company Combine.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—The Tribune will to-morrow print the following: In regard to the reports that the Federal Steel Company is negotiating for the purchase of the Cleveland, Lorain & Wheeling, and Wheeling & Lake Erie companies, H. K. Porter, chairman of the board of directors of the Federal steel company, ex-Governor Roswell P. Flower and a representative of President Gary, of the steel company, yesterday (Friday), announced that the company was not contemplating the purchase or control at present of any other company or corporation. When the steel company was in process of organization, the advisability of taking in the two railroads mentioned was discussed, but it was not subsequently left off the list. It is not impossible that at some time in the future, other companies including railroad organizations, may receive attention.

## VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA.

Baltimore Booth's Patriotic Branch of Salvation Army.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—The second annual meeting of the Grand Field Council of the Volunteers of America, which has been in session here for the last three days, finished its labors to-day. There were twenty-two out of the twenty-seven delegates from the different regimental councils present. The rules of the organization have been changed so that hereafter each post will have the right to send a lay delegate to this council which will give the members of the organization direct voice in the affairs of the grand council.

The uniform of the women members has been ordered changed from cadet blue now worn to the cadet gray color. In warm weather a white waist will be worn with a gray skirt. To furnish the United States Army, it was decided to have a smaller bonnet and the top of it will be rolled backwards.

From to-day Ballington Booth will be designated as "General" Booth. The report of the treasurer shows a cash balance of \$35,850. The report of the general work were \$15,226.54. The receipts for the social or prison work were \$7,715.35, all of which was expended.

## Miller in the Lead.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—Before midnight Miller had beaten the world's record made by himself a year ago, and his friends believe that he will be able to remain ahead of his own record until the race is ended. A large crowd thronged Madison Square Garden all day and at midnight thousands of enthusiasts remained to cheer on the Jaded six day riders.

The race was won by Miller, the six day rider, 1,764.6; Pierce, 1,728.3; Albert, 1,655.5; Glimm, 1,602.3; Lawson, 1,585; Aronson, 1,545; Nawn, 1,518; Stevens, 1,481.1; Porter, 1,494.3; Hale, 1,347.7; Julius, 1,128.4.

## AS TO PORTO RICO.

The Preliminary Report Made to Secretary Gage

## BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Sent to That Country—The Customs Collections Are Being Made Without any Disturbance—Two "Peons" for one American Dollar—The Situation in the Country is now Reported to be Peaceable—The Greatest Task is Readjusting the Civil Administration.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 9.—Assistant-Secretary Vanderlip, who is expected to arrive in the United States from Porto Rico next Monday, has made a preliminary and informal report to Secretary Gage of his observations in that island. Under date of the 27th, he reports that the military authorities are getting along fairly well with customs collections. Everything received has been deposited with DeFord & Co., financial agents of the government, and the amount now on deposit aggregates more than \$100,000. Spanish customs officials have been put to work at the various ports and this system works satisfactory. The men, he writes, are honest, and it is thought by prominent military officials that the government is getting everything it should.

The report that customs officers in Porto Rico were receiving only pesos, and were declining to receive American dollars at San Juan is incorrect. That was the case for a few days, the Spanish customs officials interpreting the instructions to mean that only pesos should be received. As soon as this was discovered, however, dollars or pesos were ordered to be received without prejudice, the rate of course being two pesos against one American dollar. While that rate does not at all correspond with the commercial rate of \$1.65, it is a fact that about two-thirds of the little money of the kind of disturbance in dollars the remaining one-third in pesos. The customs officers are not allowed to exchange pesos back for dollars. Military officers at San Juan contend that the reports are untrue, and that the disturbances of the peace on the island are without substantial foundation.

## Situation Now Peaceful.

During the evacuation there were more or less disturbances of a rather personal private character, but the situation here now, Mr. Vanderlip writes, is as peaceable as it is in the United States. Within a few days, special reports have been received from the various cities of the municipality and they all unite in the statement that the conditions are entirely peaceable and the people law-abiding. There has been some trouble on the west end of the island by political agitators, mainly among emigrants from Hayti, who are said to have a special facility for fomenting discord, but at the present time there is nothing serious even in that district. The military authorities have been especially active in capturing some organized bands of bandits, and it is regarded as an especially good omen that the natives are rendering their aid in ferreting out these people. A number of bandits are confined in prison, and the military authorities are probably some of these cases may result in the execution of the offenders, and in fact our military authorities are inclined to believe that if this sort of punishment is ordered the open trials will occur in the island.

The American troops have, on the whole, been well behaved and have, according to the testimony of commanding officers, given practically no trouble at all. A Tremendous Task. It has been a tremendous task, getting the civil administration of affairs into operation again. Practically all civil administration was at a standstill when the fall of the island. An endeavor has been made to put the Spanish officials, so far as could be done, back into their places and have the civil administration of affairs go on as nearly as possible in the manner of the old. Where there are, says Secretary Vanderlip, some special sharp politicians, they revived an obsolete autonomist scheme of municipal government and were all ready to put it into force. General Brooke, however, found it of a most rigorous and paternal character, and declined to permit its adoption, whereupon seventeen of the thirty members of the council resigned. The commanding general has since completed the selection of his successors and municipal affairs there will soon be adjusted.

The American commanding officers have been withdrawing guards from the sugar plantations and they took this as going to have a good effect. The condition of affairs, it is stated, is worse than slavery at some of these plantations. The work was done by "Peons" who receive fifty-five pesetas a year, on an average, and were then subjected to the worst type of "country store."

## Gave Short Weight.

Those stores give short weights in everything sold. Among several hundred alleged pound packages of rice weighed by American officials there was not one which weighed over three-fourths of a pound. Our officers made the owners of the plantations show some sort of fair treatment to the "peons," refused the request for guards, and have heard nothing further about riots. It is thought that the withdrawal of the guards from the plantations will work a great improvement and that has now been accomplished practically throughout the island.

The report closes by saying: "I learn that there is a great demand here for a boat for the coasting trade around the island. There is only one small boat engaged in the trade, and she has freight from here away beyond her capacity, so that her owners refuse all shipments except small ones upon which they can get the highest rate. A small steamer could undoubtedly make good profit in the coasting trade."

## How Anderson Met His Fate.

NONPOLK, Va., Dec. 9.—John Anderson, the condemned murderer of Mate Saunders, of the schooner Olive Pecker, was executed in the city jail at 9 p. m. to-day. He marched from his cell to the scaffold unsupported and with firm step, and ascended the scaffold without assistance. Anderson made a short speech, saying he had forgiven the men who took his life away, and would die at peace.

## LIPSCOMB'S CASE.

A Categorical Denial of the Register's Assertion—A Fabrication out of the Whole Cloth—Satisfied of Illegal Votes Cast.

## Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

PARSONS, W. Va., Dec. 9.—Your correspondent called to-day upon Hon. P. Lipscomb at his office, with the following article clipped from the Wheeling Register, and asked him as to its truthfulness. He read the article carefully and replied: "It is positively untrue." Here is the article:

"THEFT NO. 2 will probably also be attempted in the same way. Judge Philatus Lipscomb, defeated Republican candidate from Tucker, has been similarly pilled with telegrams from Akinson, Dawson and White for several days, and was finally personally pleaded with by the Republican chairman of that county to permit this thing to be done 'for party purposes' in his name. He steadily refused, declaring resolutely that he had been honestly defeated, and would not contest. Finally, in desperation, he told the emissary sent to him:

"GO BACK AND TELL DAWSON AND GOVERNOR ATKINSON THAT I SERVED THEM WELL HAVE TO SIGN IT THEMSELVES AND DO THE SWEARING. I WAS BEATEN FOR THE LEGISLATURE IN THIS COUNTY, AND I HAVE NO GROUNDS FOR CONTEST AGAINST MR. WAGONER, AND I DECLINE TO BE A PARTY TO ANY SCHEME WHICH LOOKS TO DEPRIVE HIM OF THE SEAT IN THE LEGISLATURE TO WHICH HE WAS ELECTED."

Whether the conspirators will "sign it, themselves and do the swearing" remains to be seen. Probably it will be done, as it is proposed to do in the similar case of Captain Pritchard in the face of his refusal to lend his name to the proposition.

Mr. Lipscomb further said: "The Republican chairman of this county never saw, or spoke to me about the matter; neither did I ever make any such statement about Governor Atkinson and Secretary of State Dawson as is accredited to me in the Register article. It is manufactured out of the whole cloth. I know Governor Atkinson and Mr. Dawson personally, and know them to be honorable men and they will do nothing that honorable men ought not to do."

Tucker county gave me 881 majority over Wagoner, the largest Republican majority ever received by any candidate in this county. I would course naturally feel proud over it."

"I do not believe in contests, as a rule, and although in my case there were many illegal votes counted against me in Randolph county, I prefer to let the matter rest as it stands."

## QUAY'S COUNTER

On his Accusers—He Wants Them on the Witness Stand.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 9.—Council for Senator Quay in the conspiracy charges for which he is to be tried next week to-day subpoenaed ex-Common Pleas Judge James Gay Gordon and ex-Postmaster General John Wanamaker, as witnesses for the defense.

This news is interesting in view of the known opposition of both of these men to Senator Quay politically, and in view of the charges recently made by Senator Penrose in which he stated that the charges against Senator Quay were the result of a conspiracy to defeat him for re-election to the United States senate and in his place name a person favorable to Messrs. Wanamaker and Gordon.

## BEDFORD MALIGNED.

Only Seven Cases of Smallpox Can Be Counted There.

BEDFORD, Pa., Dec. 9.—Indignation was never greater than at the present moment in Bedford. Indignation caused by the reports that have been given the press concerning the prevalence of smallpox in Bedford. Stories have gone abroad that the whole town was afflicted with the dread disease, that the residents were quarantined and barricaded. Two hundred cases reported have dwindled down to seven. Two in the borough and five outside within a radius of ten miles. These cases are conceded to be smallpox in a very mild form, though no alarm has been felt by the citizens, these patients being entirely under control and are being treated as such.

At a town meeting held this afternoon a committee was appointed composed of town council and board of health and three prominent citizens, Judge A. B. Ford and the Philippine Islands, and the political, administrative and financial results thereof; the acquiescence by the United States of public property, and the relinquishment of archives. The articles of agreement, which determined the status of Spanish subjects remaining in the ceded territories and unfinished law suits and contracts; guarantees of the same terms to Spanish shipping and merchandise as imposed upon American shipping and merchandise in the Philippine Islands, for ten years, and leaving the status of Spanish commerce in the West Indies to be settled later.

An important provision in the ceded territories, in the same terms as the Florida treaty, the Americans having steadfastly refused to incorporate any guarantee of the United States into the treaty, and the Philippine Islands, and the political, administrative and financial results thereof; the acquiescence by the United States of public property, and the relinquishment of archives. The articles of agreement, which determined the status of Spanish subjects remaining in the ceded territories and unfinished law suits and contracts; guarantees of the same terms to Spanish shipping and merchandise as imposed upon American shipping and merchandise in the Philippine Islands, for ten years, and leaving the status of Spanish commerce in the West Indies to be settled later.

## MAINLY "MAINE."

Spaniards Touchy on Havana Harbor Tragedy.

## CONSIDER IT AN INSULT

To Have them Connected with the Blowing up of the American Battleship—Many Bitter Comments Made. The Protest Formulated by the Spanish Commissioners Against the Action of the United States—Treaty May not be Signed Before Monday.

PARIS, Dec. 9.—Senator Montero Rios, president of the Spanish peace commission, and Senator Ojeda, secretary of that commission, are still confined to their beds. The illness of Senator Ojeda delays enjoining the treaty, and it is doubtful whether it will be signed before Monday.

The Americans held their usual session this morning. The Spaniards continue to make bitter comments concerning President McKinley's reference to the Maine. When a correspondent of the Associated Press approached Senator Garcia, of the Spanish commission, for further details of the protest, he said: "The fact that you represent all the American and English papers is really a reason why I should say nothing. But, what you show me as having been called is substantially correct. The exact number of articles is not determined. It depends upon how Secretaries Ojeda and Moore divide the treaty. It may be twelve or twenty articles. The Americans are to pay the indemnity within three months of the ratification. We appoint a consul in Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines without delay. The Cuban consul will be accredited to the powers that be."

Asked why the Spaniards refused to grant the United States a coaling station in the Caroline Islands, Senator Garcia said: "The Americans could hardly expect that we should agree to discuss matters outside of the protocol after the lessons we have had from them on the subject. We refused to discuss the Cuban debt they absolutely refused to consider it, and then they ask us for what they want. Quelle toupet. 'What cheek.' Yet the Cuban government remains an important question for settlement."

## The Maine Protest.

In regard to the subject of the Maine, Senator Garcia remarked: "That protest now becomes history, as it is embodied in the protocol. We do not wish to remain under an imputation which would perpetuate animosity and hatred against us, and which would be a source of constant irritation in Spain. It is not our fault that this thing should have over the reputation of Spain. We cannot submit to it. It must be cleared up, in justice to ourselves. There are many other causes to bring about between the two nations, and the addition of such a one as this, as to the future relations of the two countries, that is one of the things history alone can determine. Many nations which have been deadly enemies are speedily reconciled."

Senator Garcia was then questioned as to the future of the Philippines Islands, and he said: "The United States has inaugurated a policy which is a just, but much trouble and many responsibilities, and the Americans are not prepared for the work they are about to undertake."

The Americans preserve secrecy regarding the terms of the treaty. This is partly through the influence of the three powers on the body, who represent that it would be discounty to the senate to publish the terms before the treaty is presented to that body by the President.

The protocol of the treaty will almost reach the dimensions of a volume as it will contain every written statement presented on both sides during the conferences. The Spaniards made a last contribution to the volume in the afternoon. Senator Montero Rios then presented a vigorously worded protest in which the Spaniards declared they had yielded to force, but were not at all satisfied with the terms of the treaty, and that the rights of nations of which they were the victims. The protest was for the purposes of record, and consisted of an argument in support of every concession demanded by the Spaniards, and which the Americans refused some of them peremptorily and without an opportunity for discussion.

## An Insult Claimed.

The protest concluded: "But these concessions which we were obliged to make touch us less than the insult which has been inflicted on our nation by President McKinley in his message. We again protest solemnly against the accusation hurled against us by the United States, and we intend to submit the question to an international tribunal, comprised of England, France and Germany, to determine who shall bear the responsibility of the catastrophe."

In spite of the secrecy observed by the Americans, it is learned that the treaty consists of thirteen or fourteen articles. The principal articles provide for the cession and evacuation of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands, and the political, administrative and financial results thereof; the acquiescence by the United States of public property, and the relinquishment of archives. The articles of agreement, which determined the status of Spanish subjects remaining in the ceded territories and unfinished law suits and contracts; guarantees of the same terms to Spanish shipping and merchandise as imposed upon American shipping and merchandise in the Philippine Islands, for ten years, and leaving the status of Spanish commerce in the West Indies to be settled later.

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## STILL KICKING.

The "Maine Incident" Still in the Mind of the Spaniards.

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## MOST SIGNIFICANT

Feeling in Trade Circles was Absence of Fright

## EITHER BEFORE OR AFTER

The Meeting of Congress, the President's Message, and the Report of the Secretary of the Treasury. Everything Moving Along Smoothly—This Year's Exports for December Starting off far Ahead of the Same Month's Marvellous Record in 1897—Industries Doing Well.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—R. Q. Don M. Co.'s weekly review of trade will say to-morrow:

The most significant thing this week has been the entire absence of the customary nervous fright before or after the meeting of Congress, the President's message and the treasurer's report. No one showed the least alarm, and nobody could find occasion for any. Money and stock and grain markets moved on exactly as if the government were automatic, certain to do or say no more than the people had already decided and expected and so the gradual betterment since October continues.

There is a larger demand for products in nearly all the great industries, larger export demand for foreign needs, a more healthy domestic demand since reasonable weather arrived and a comforting conviction that November business, the biggest ever done in this country in any month, was but a step toward something better.

Exports last year in December were far above the average. The wheat exports, for instance, have been for the week 5,638,767 bushels, against 4,112,137 last year, and Pacific exports 556,523 bushels against 377,033 last year, and prices have declined 20 per cent. The Western receipts of 10,125,169 bushels against 5,212,471 from last year's great crop stops argument. "The wheat does not come out at low prices if the people have less to buy than last year, and while 417,000 bushels against 3,312,094 last year, and such a foreign demand at prices much higher than last year and with wheat cheaper, is proof of a state of the market which Americans have not known for years. The wheat has declined only 1/40 with enormous receipts.

Cotton shared in the export movement fully and never before. Last week's 3.15 in price, with a feeling that estimates of yield may have been excessive. At the extremely low price yet quoted, foreign buyers do not stop to calculate commercial and mill stocks on hand. The cotton crop in the country is not very large, being but little changed by troubles about wages at the South, though by more voluntary curtailment in New England, but the demand for goods is better, and has lifted the price of raw cotton an eighth and some of the other goods a shade.

Woolen goods have been in much better demand and many of the smaller mills have been buying after concessions secured by the larger. The much broader market is more healthy and promises far more for the industry and sales of 10,655,200 pounds in two weeks past, the three highest weeks of the year, 70,000 in the same weeks of 1892, are quite in line with demand in prosperous years. Prices yielded about 1/4 in November, according to one hundred quotations by Centes Brothers and from Philadelphia dispatches appear to be about a cent lower this week.

The rupture of the inchoate rail combination, it appears, resulted in lower prices and a feeling that estimates of yield may have been excessive. At the extremely low price yet quoted, foreign buyers do not stop to calculate commercial and mill stocks on hand. The cotton crop in the country is not very large, being but little changed by troubles about wages at the South, though by more voluntary curtailment in New England, but the demand for goods is better, and has lifted the price of raw cotton an eighth and some of the other goods a shade.

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## Flour Trust in Prospect.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 9.—In an interview to-day Clement R. Stern, of the Atlas flour mills, of Milwaukee, stated that he expected the big flour combination would be in operation shortly. The combination would have a capitalization of \$50,000,000. A syndicate of English and American capitalists has been negotiating with the owners of the mills looking to the formation of a trust for some time past. Mr. Stern said that the Atlas flour mills would be included in the new organization. The combination will include practically all the spring wheat mills in the country.

## Dowager Empress Snubbed.

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